Open Forums
The RCTC Leadership Cabinet will be holding a "Rumor Control Through Communications (RCTC) Open Forum on Wednesday, January 26, 2005. These forums are an opportunity for employees to discuss concerns and share ideas and information with the Cabinet in an informal setting. Specifically, Predesign Documents, Strategic Planning Updates, and Budget Updates are current issues that will be addressed. The forums are scheduled for 12:30 p.m. in CF202 and 3:00 p.m. in HB117.

Please join the Cabinet members for this important communication forum.

Goddard Library, Library Technology Center and Digital Media Center Hours
Spring Semester - January 10 - May 13, 2005

Monday - Thursday  7:30am - 10:00pm
Friday            7:30am -  4:30pm
Saturday         9:00am -  5:00pm
Sunday           1:00pm -  5:00pm*

*Digital Media Center CLOSED

CLOSED: January 17, March 12-13, March 19-20, March 27

Spring Break Hours
Monday - Friday   March 14-18  8:00am - 4:30pm

Meeting Minutes
Click below:
http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html

Marketing Fact
At RCTC, 43% of all students enrolled in the Fall of 2004 attended part-time. Nationally, nearly two-thirds (63%) of community college students attend college less than full time. At four-year colleges, only 22% of students attend less than full time. (AACC, National Profile of Community Colleges: Trends & Statistics, 3rd Edition).
Supalla’s Scribblings

RCTC was pleased to learn that both the House and Senate have included the University Center Health Sciences project in their bonding bills. Although the amounts introduced won’t be enough to cover the inflated $12.7 million cost resulting from last year’s legislative inability to pass a bonding bill, they are a good starting point. The task now turns to increasing the project funding level, enhancing the bonding allocation for higher education and convincing the Governor to reconsider his decision not to include the project in his recommendation. Many thanks to our local legislative delegation who was responsible for making certain our project made it into the initial recommendations.

The following editorial is just a portion of this week’s article, “Invest in higher education,” which was authored by MnSCU Trustee and former RCTC Senate President Tyler Despins. I encourage you to review the entire article that appeared in the January 10 edition of the Post-Bulletin…it’s an excellent summary of the urgent need for the legislature to fully fund MnSCU’s bonding and biennial budget requests. More than 240,000 students each year attend classes through the 32 MnSCU institutions, which include campuses that are vital to southeast Minnesota. These campuses play an essential role in nearly every facet of life in this area, from providing skilled employees for the region’s world-class health care institutions to producing business leaders, scientists and educators. But, I am deeply concerned, as a trustee of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, that the state no longer sees public higher education as a critical investment. The Legislature last year failed to pass a bonding bill that would have enabled Winona State to renovate its older science laboratories in Pasteur Hall with high-tech, flexible, safe and efficient laboratories. The pending bonding request from MnSCU includes major repairs and replacement of old roofs, equipment and other infrastructure at all of the system’s campuses, as well as 31
essential capital projects. Examples include renovations in workforce training and health science space at RCTC, science labs at Riverland Community College, technology renovations at Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical in Red Wing and student services and nursing space remodeling at the college’s Winona campus. From my perspective as a student at WSU, where I am pursuing a bachelor’s degree after studying at RCTC, residents of the region can be proud of the quality of their state colleges and universities. The bottom line – we are a smart investment for the taxpayers of Minnesota. But the full potential power for MnSCU to benefit Southeast Minnesota may not be realized unless we see a turnaround in attitudes toward financial support for higher education. A renewed state investment in public higher education is critical to the students and ultimately, to the region’s success and vitality.  

Margaret Spellings, President Bush’s nominee to replace Rod Paige as Secretary of Education, was easily confirmed this week by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions after an uneventful hearing. The full Senate will vote on her nomination later this month. During the confirmation hearing, Spellings promised additional resources for community colleges and Pell Grants, and described the forthcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education act as “a great opportunity to meet the needs of older students and adults.” She later reaffirmed the administration’s support for a year-round Pell Grant award, and promised to work to eliminate the $4 billion shortfall in the program.

Noteworthy...

- Several new staff members participated in the January 7 Employee Orientation coordinated by Jennifer Haug. Please welcome these highly qualified staff members to the RCTC team.
- Marilyn Treder has noted that after the first round competition in Student Math League, the RCTC student team ranked sixth in the Central Region standings and fourth in Minnesota competition. RCTC students David Buchs ranked second in the regional competition and Adam Maves ranked twelfth. Congratulations to Marilyn who was appointed to a second four-year term as the representative for the Central Region on the Test Writing Committee for Student Math League nationally. We’re very proud of Marilyn, our math faculty and talented students!
- First day enrollment numbers, always subject to change through the drop/add period, show 5553 students enrolled spring semester. These student enrollments equate to 4021 full-time equivalents, a 2.82 percent increase over last year. Preliminary calculations indicate that, should current enrollments be maintained, RCTC would end the 2004-05 academic year with nearly a 4 percent enrollment increase, significantly better than MnSCU’s flat enrollment numbers.
- The Office of the Chancellor has sent out a notice to all campuses that St. Paul Pioneer Press reporter Chuck Laszewski’s request for all system employees’ salaries has been fulfilled. The paper has been requesting public data over the course of more than a year about higher education costs, appropriations, enrollment, employees, facilities, room and board, and other related topics in what it describes as an effort to identify the reasons for the increasing cost of higher education. Among Chuck’s most recent request was a list of all system employees and their institution, job titles and salaries. Chuck has indicated that he plans to finish the story by the end of this month.
- Jerry Casper is looking for young and middle-age actors for an upcoming one act play based on the Rochester Reads book, The Giver. The play will be performed on February 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. in Hill Theatre. Energetic Jerry is also planning for a 7 p.m., February 11 Valentine Show, and a spring semester theatre offering of the Junglebook. And, if you’re looking for a quick and entertaining history lesson, why not plan to take in The Complete History of America (Abridged) that includes Jerry, Greg Miller and Nick Mezacapa. The history class will be offered on March 4, 5 or 6 at the Rochester Civic Theatre. Jerry’s classes are always unforgettable!
- The Visiting Scholar Series is taking advantage of an excellent opportunity to piggyback a public presentation with a visit to Mayo by 9-11 Commission member Michael Hurley. Michael grew up in Edina, graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School and has worked for both the CIA and National Security Council. He’s an excellent speaker and presents a very interesting background perspective on the 9-11 Commission’s findings. He will appear in Hill Theatre at UCR on February 1 at a time still to be determined.

Quote for the week…”Looking is so very important…especially in success…because what you look to happen in your life…usually does…sad part is…most are looking down when success passes by.” – Doug Firebaugh

Spring semester 2005 is off to a very good start, maybe the best first week start ever….THANK YOU!